



The plan alluded to in the following letter was one which Colonel Laurens had broached before the Legislature of South Carolina, in raising a regiment of black slaves in this State. It was voted down. The following is an extract of a letter from Washington, in reply to one from Laurens communicating his failure:

To Lieutenant-Colonel John Laurens.

HEAD-QUARTERS, 10th July, 1782.

MY DEAR SIB:—The last post brought me your letter of the 10th of this month, containing the account of your late expedition, and the state of your plan. That spirit of freedom, which is the commencement of this contest would have easily sacrificed your life to the cause of your country. But your love is now subdued, and selfish passion has taken its place. It is not of public, but private interest, which influences the general conduct of mankind. You are not to be blamed, but you are to be excused. You are not to be rebuked, but to be exhorted.

these circumstances, it would rather have been surprising if you had succeeded, nor will you fear, have better success in Georgia.

In a remarkable and very interesting letter written by Lafayette, in the prison of Magdalen, he said :

"I know not what disposition has been made of me at Cayenne, but I hope I may be able to Lafayette will take care, that the negro who cultivate it shall preserve their liberty."

In reply to this portion of General Lafayette's letter, Washington wrote as follows, from the Vernon, 10th May, 1788 :

"The benevolence of your heart, my dear friend, is to be commended upon all occasions; that I never wonder at your fresh proofs of; but your late purchase of an estate in the colony of Cayenne, with a view of converting the slaves into good citizens, and a noble proof of your humanity. Would to God a like spirit might diffuse itself generally into the minds

the people of this country," says an unpublished letter of Governor Pinckney to the General Assembly, at its last session, for the abolition of slavery, but they could scarcely expect a result so soon as that. "I am," he says, "not really, believe, be productive of much in a reasonable and mischievous; but I think there certainly is some ground to be sought to be effected, as that, too by legislative authority."

Governor Pinckney, of South Carolina, has written the following in a letter to General Washington:

"Our legislature, among other questions, agitated the one respecting the future importation of slaves, as the prohibition expired on March, 1793. Great pains were used to effect a compromise, and the bill was at length introduced in the Senate, it was lost by a majority taken in the Senate, that I think we may consider as a final determination. I am not disposed to import as largely as they ever did. It is a decision, upon the policy of which I cannot have any doubts."

The following quotation appeared in a letter from Governor Pinckney to General Washington, dated April 1793, and is "errate," and is dated Philadelphia. It has

March, 1792, which contained the following passage:

"I must say that I lament the decision of your legislature upon the question of importation. March 1792. I was in hopes the motives of policy, as well as other good reasons supported by the direct effects of slave trade, would have prevailed upon your legislature to have operated to produce a total prohibition of the importation of slaves, whenever the act of importation should be acquiesced in, so that no man be interested in the measure."

The following is one of the famous FAIRFAX COUNTY RESOLUTIONS, adopted at a public meeting held in Fairfax County, in Virginia, on the 20th of August, 1791, and signed by George Washington, president: it was unanimously adopted by the committee of which he was chairman, and a division of the meeting, reported to him by a State Convention held, the following day:

August:

"13. Resolved, That it is the opinion of this assembly, that the importation of slaves, and indirects, no slaves ought to be imported into any of the British colonies on this continent."

The following is the second item of G. Washington's last will and testament:

"Item.—Upon the decease of my wife, the said Elizabeth, I desire that my said son, John, should hold in my own right shall receive their freedom. To emancipate them during her lifetime, I have already provided by my bequest, but with such insuperable difficulties on account of their intermarriage with the down negroes, that to excite the most painful sensations, if I were to do so, would be to excite the most painful sensations. I therefore desire that my said son, John, should hold both descriptions are in the occupancy of the same property; it not being in my power, to defer the time by which the negroes are to be freed, until the said John, shall be able to provide for them. And that my said son, John, who will receive freedom according to the said proviso, there may be some who, from old age or infirmities, may be unable to support themselves, of their infancy, will be unable to support themselves, it is my will and desire, that all who

come under the first and second sections of the act, and that the children of such heirs while they live, and that each of the latter description as have no parents living, or, if living, are unable or unwilling to provide for them, shall be bound by the court until they shall arrive at the age of twenty-five years, and, in cases where no record can be produced showing their ages, shall be ascertainable by the court, upon the oath of the clerk of the court, subject, shall be adequate and final.

"The negroes thus bound, are by their masters or mistresses) to be taught to read and write, and to be brought up to some useful occupation, agreeably to the laws of the Commonwealth, and to be provided with suitable clothing, food, shelter, and other necessaries, and to be educated as orphans and other poor children. And I do hereby expressly forbid the sale or transportation out of the said commonwealth, of any slave

may be possessed of, under any pretence of necessity. And to moreover most grossly to abuse the confidence of the public, by the execution hereafter named, to which this clause relates, the most solemn oaths and promises of the said slave, and every part thereof, to the said public, to the said slave, to the said driver, to take place, without evasion, neglect or delay, and to the said slave, to the said driver, to take place hereafter.

\*It is a criminal offence in Virginia, not only of the slave itself, but of the owner of the slave itself, to teach a slave to read or write.

### SUITS FOR DAMAGES.

WE understand that a writ returnable before the Court of Common Pleas for the county of Essex, issued yesterday at the instance of Mr. Burton, of Salem, (who was viewed as a person of some consequence,) against a poor negro, who was charged with a posse of ten or twelve armed men, against Mr. District Attorney Lunt, for malicious prosecution, and for a libelous and malicious prosecution. The writ was issued on behalf of Mr. L. Mr. L. has been or will be held to bail in that amount.

We also understand that a writ was issued yesterday issued on behalf of Mr. Burton, against Mr. District Attorney Lunt, and George T. Curtis, U. S. Commissioner,

for assault and battery, and false imprisonment—damages laid at ten thousand dollars. We understand that Mr. Sims has reason to be proud of Mr. Sims. Since getting out of our city countables, damages laid on behalf of Mr. Sims, for assault and false imprisonment, they have since been reduced to the form of the statute in dealing with a man held under arrest as a fugitive slave.

It is evident the arrest of Mr. Sims will furnish the courts, civil as well as criminal, with a good deal of business.—*Continued*

[P] It is stated that the Postmaster, at New York, is to be removed on the 25th inst. Mr. Hill is busily sharpening his pen, and is expected to have a bill introduced in the next Congress, for the purpose of removing the Postmaster from the office. The bill will be seen in more or less detail in the next issue of the paper.





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